

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification located in the Related Applications section beginning on page 1, line 4 through page 1, line 20, as follows.

This application is related to ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09,452,753, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS TRAFFIC ON A SYNCHRONOUS BUS OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE;" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/452,759, now U.S. Patent No. 6,621,828 issued September 16, 2003, entitled "FUSED SWITCH CORE AND METHOD FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE;" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/452,746, now U.S. Patent No. 6,628,657 issued September 30, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS TRAFFIC ON A BUS OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE;" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/452,829, entitled "RATE ADJUSTABLE BACKPLANE AND METHOD FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE;" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/452,830, entitled "ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER MODE (ATM) SWITCH AND METHOD FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE;" and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/452,751, entitled "SYNCHRONOUS SWITCH AND METHOD FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE".